

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7242

BILL NUMBER: HB 1292

DATE PREPARED: Jan 7, 2001

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

FISCAL ANALYST: Kathy Norris

PHONE NUMBER: 234-1360

FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

STATE IMPACT	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
State Revenues			
State Expenditures		1,378,000	1,378,000
Net Increase (Decrease)		(1,378,000)	(1,378,000)

Summary of Legislation: This bill appropriates \$1,378,000 beginning July 1, 2001, and ending June 30, 2002, and \$1,378,000 beginning July 1, 2002, and ending June 30, 2003, to the Office of the Secretary of Family and Social Services to implement the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. The bill specifies how the funds are to be used.

Effective Date: July 1, 2001.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill appropriates \$1,378,000 annually for FY 2002 and FY 2003 and specifies that the funds are to be used for the purposes shown in the table below. The bill also specifies that the funds are nonreverting.

Required Use of Funds	FY 2002	FY 2003
Legal Assistance Contract	100,000	100,000
Long-Term Care Ombudsman (existing)	700,000	700,000
Waiver & CHOICE Ombudsman (new)	578,000	578,000
Total Appropriation	1,378,000	1,378,000

Background: The Long-term Care Ombudsman, as required by the Federal Older American's Act, is

responsible for responding to complaints regarding the health, welfare, quality of life, and rights of nursing home residents. The primary responsibility of the program is to receive, investigate, and attempt to resolve complaints from any source. Secondary responsibility is to provide information regarding the program, nursing home/patient responsibilities, and patient rights to any interested person.

One state employee, the State Ombudsman, administers and monitors the program statewide. In addition, there is at least one Long-Term Care Ombudsman housed within each of the 16 Area Agencies on Aging. There are nine full-time Ombudsmen and twenty part-time positions which in total constitute fourteen full-time equivalents (FTE). Funding for this staff comes from the Federal Older Americans Act in two Titles, Title IIIB, Supportive Services, and Title VII, Ombudsman Services. The Federal funds have a mandatory matching requirement of 15% for both sources of funds. In total, the current program annually expends approximately \$420,000 (combined Federal and State dollars).

The Division of Disability, Aging, and Rehabilitative Services reports that all available federal funds for the Ombudsman Program are being used and that no additional federal funds would be available given additional state matching appropriations. Therefore, any expansion in the program must be accomplished with State General Funds.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Family and Social Services Administration, Division of Disability, Aging, and Rehabilitative Services.

Local Agencies Affected: Area Agencies on Aging.

Information Sources: Susan Preble, Legislative Liaison for FSSA, (317) 232-1149; Arlene Franklin, State Ombudsman, (317) 232-7134.